

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes September 17, 2008

Date: September 17, 2008

Time: 5:23 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Member(s) Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Marybeth Laisure

Doug Rise

Philip Englehardt

Lyle LeCronier

Barb Wishowski

George Heron

Member(s) Excused:

Bill Palmer

Others Present:

Brian Daley, ANR Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting was called to order at 5:23 p.m. The minutes of the May 21, 2008, meeting were approved with corrections to three names under the Members Present and Members Excused section. Corrected minutes will be reprinted and mailed out with the November meeting agenda. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Old Business:

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension educator, reported on events for 4-H during fair week. Horse barn improvements done throughout the year and new horse safety plan were well received by 4-Hers and the public. Ms. Schulz provided an update on the condition of the youth horse rider that suffered a head injury while participating in a non-4-H horse event on the last weekend of fair. She was happy to state that while the youth's injuries were serious, the youth is now in rehab and on the mend. On another sad note, Crump Castaways 4-H leader Sherilyn Jones' home caught fire on the last Sunday of fair week. Ms. Jones and her family were on the county fairgrounds and not at home at the time of the fire. The family suffered a total loss of all buildings and one animal. Ms. Schulz was happy to report that the entire 4-H community came together to put on a wonderful dinner and silent auction fundraiser to benefit the Jones family in their time of need. The benefit was held August 24 and raised over three thousand dollars. While these two unfortunate events over shadowed the last two days of fair week, all the 4-H events went quite

well. No total yet for auction.

Kudos to both Jodi S. And Jodi W. from Extension Council on there efforts to keep things running smooth at this year's fair. Lots of fun was had by all. Some discussion centered around what some members of Council saw as little coverage by the Bay City Times in covering the fair. Ms. Schulz noted that there was one big article to promote fair by the Times, just leading up to fair. She knew that a group of 4-H kids did contact the Times directly, and all fair results went out to the media, but no feedback was seen.

New Business:

Howard Wetters introduced Brian Daley, who has been hired on a temporary basis to fill the vacant Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension edcuator position. Mr. Daley's is from an agri-business family in Deckerville, Michigan. He has his Bachelor's degree, and will soon finish his Master's degree, from MSU in Crops and Soil Fertility. Mr. Daley began his work with Extension in mid-August. He supports both Bay and Arenac counties.

MSU Extension Reports:

Mr. Wetters also discussed an expanded position formed under the Better Kid Care program. There is now a program associate position dedicated only to that program. Ms. Susan Kukla was hired in September on a temporary basis to fill the position. A temporary position is needed due to grant funding approval expected in March 2009. Ms. Ann Arnold, Family Consumer Sciences Extension educator, will be Ms. Kukla's direct supervisor. Program Associate Karen Parker, who previously supported the Better Kid Care program, will expand her efforts by supporting the nutrition program.

After eight years of continued funding from the Children's Trust Fund and the Department of Human Services, the Successful Futures program will not be renewed in the 2008-2009 grant year. Successful Futures provided intake, referral, and some direct services to families with children aged 0-3. The Successful Futures program was just presented to Extension Council in May 2008. Mr. Wetters is looking for local PIE funds through the Bay Arenac ISD to support part of the program. Local non-profit providers are very supportive of retaining the intake/referral coordination position that was a part of the Successful Futures program. Mr. Wetters discussed the impact of this referral coordination service has on the local community providers, including MSU Extension - Bay County. There was some discussion on proving the success of early childhood development that the program may have had and identifying the gaps to success for those children going toward high school. Extension Council expressed support for programs like Successful Futures that can reach at-risk children/families early in their

development.

Mr. Wetters provided the update for the Family Consumer Sciences program area as Ms. Arnold and Ms. Kukla were at a regional Better Kid Care (BKC) meeting. The BKC program facilitated through MSU Extension - Bay County services Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland counties. All program goals have been met, and some exceeded, for program year 2007-2008. The Strong Families, Safe Children grant through DHS has been secured, which will expand parenting education to at-risk DHS clients. Jan Rise talked about the Health Toddler research grant, of which she has been working as a data collector, along with Ms. Arnold and Ms. Kim Langley, breast-feeding peer counselor. At this time she is unsure how the data will look at the end of the research project, but she sees improvement with nutrition after eight weeks of nutrition classes (provided by Mss. Arnold and Langley.) There is talk of another study geared toward infants through the MSU College of Nursing.

Senior Project FRESH continues and has been expanded to include the Bradley House in addition to several local senior high-rises. Some discussion centered on how Project FRESH and Sr. Project FRESH programs work, the nutrition education provided by MSU Extension - Bay County, and its impact on participants budgets and the local agri-economy. Sr. Project FRESH was locally matched by almost six thousand dollars by both the county and city housing commissions, and is a pilot program for 2008. If all goes well, the program may be expanded to allow more seniors to participate and several locations added to the local senior high-rises.

Ms. Schulz recapped some of the other 4-H events that happened over the last few months. Horsemanship for Handicappers (HFH) started September 10 and is a six-week program. Ms. Tina Bennet delivered a huge training with the volunteers on how it "feels" to be handicapped.

A new program, ReCharge, is being delivered at the local Boys & Girls clubs by MSU Extension - Bay County staff. November 8 is the annual soup supper fundraiser, put on by 4-H Advisory Council. The Livestock Association is putting on a small animal swap event in September. All 4-H clubs are reviewing their bylaws.

Mr. Wetters provided an update on ANR programs. A Dry Bean Day plot tour was held in August. About 40 farmers attended, which is almost a 50 percent turnout rate. New varieties were discussed. The event was well received by the growers. Two upcoming pesticide review dates and one Ag update is scheduled for winter of 2009.

Ms. Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer program coordinator, offered that the Master Gardener program is working with Bay Medical on revitalizing a roof top garden that would benefit their patients and families. If all goes well, this would be another new project for local Master Gardeners to work on. The MDOT I-75 rest stop project is

being considered for a redesign. The large beds, the largest in the state, may be redesigned to include more containers. At the state-level the Master Gardener Volunteer program has experienced significant administrative changes. The Master Gardener Volunteer program is now under the direct supervision of MSU, and a new state coordinator is coming on in November. Master Gardeners will be working with the Bay County Library System again by offering informational booths at the Wirt Library. Another Master Gardener class is planned for Winter 2009 and will be held in the daytime. There was some Council discussion on good contacts for native grasses and on restoration gardens.

Mr. Wetters discussed the final stretch in attaining the Communities for a Lifetime (C4L) county-wide designation. Today, state of Michigan officials from the Division on Aging and other members of the C4L team participated in an assessment analysis. Turning Point technology was used to help set priorities and gaps in need of the proposal. In the future, the C4L team will present to local municipalities on implementing and aiding their gaps in services for greater feedback. The Senior Task Force will take on that challenge.

MSU Extension - Bay County participated in a bus tour to Elkton on wind turbine energy. The focus was to gain knowledge on the feasibility of this type of energy and to increase wind turbine energy education for our community. In the future, MSU Extension - Bay County hopes to aid elected officials in drafting a model ordinance on this type of energy source.

In celebration of 4-H's 100 birthday in Michigan, 100th Anniversary Celebration ice cream was served. This ice cream was made by MSU students.

The next meeting will be held on November 19, 2008. Mr. Rise adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the May 21, 2008, meeting minutes with (three) corrections.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz